

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 IGA-01 EB-07 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, GB, ELTN

SUBJECT: GABON ACCESS ROADS

REF: A. ABIDJAN 0306; B. BONN 00162

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF REF A WITH EHM, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN AID MINISTRY. HE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO THE US PROPOSAL, BUT WISHES TO CONSULT WITH FOREIGN OFFICE AND OTHER AID OFFICIALS BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION. HE HOPES TO HAVE AN ANSWER THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF EXPLAINED US PROPOSAL FOR JOINT-FUNDING TO DR. EHM OF AID MINISTRY, INDICATING THAT OTHER PARTIES HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL. EHM, WHO WAS NOT AWARE OF THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE ROAD PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED BY THE US, COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE US PROPOSAL WHEN THE LOCATION OF SOME OF THE ROADS WAS PINPOINTED. HE ALSO DOUBTED THAT THE FRG WOULD OPPOSE A MEETING ON THE SUBJECT AS LONG AS THE OTHER PARTIES FAVORED JOINT FUNDING.

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3. EHM ADDED THAT THE KREDITANSTALT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU (SEE REF B) MIGHT BE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT JOINT FINANCING THAN HE. HE STATED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOME PREVIOUS JOINTLY-FUNDED PROJECTS HAD BECOME QUITE MESSY DUE TO THE COMPLICATED FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTENSIVE PAPERWORK. HE COULD NOT JUDGE WHETHER THESE EARLIER DIFFICULTIES WOULD INFLUENCE THE ACCESS ROAD PROJECT.

4. EHM INDICATED THAT THE FRG WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN MAINTAINING ATTRIBUTION ON THOSE PORTIONS OF THE PROJECT ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR FRG FUNDING. ACCORDING TO EHM, THE FRG ALSO HAS NO INTEREST IN THE SELECTION OF A CONTRACTOR.

5. FRG FIGURES ON ROAD LENGTH SEEMED TO CONFLICT WITH US FIGURES SUPPLIED IN REF A, CAUSING SOME CONFUSION ON DETAILS OF THE PROJECT. FRG FIGURES SHOWED 192 KM FOR THE FOREST ROAD STRETCHING SOUTHEAST FROM BOOUE ACROSS THE IVINDO AND DILO RIVERS. OTHER ROADS WOULD BE ADDITIONAL. WHEN EMBOFF QUOTED 192 KM FOR JOINT FINANCING, EHM BECAME CONCERNED THAT KOUMAMEYONG-BOOUE ROAD WAS NOT INCLUDED IN JOINT-FUNDING PROPOSAL. SINCE NEITHER EHM NOR EMBOFF KNEW EXACT LOCATION OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ROADS AND SOME OF US-FUNDED ROADS, AND SINCE NEITHER HAD PARTICULARLY GOOD MAPS OF THE AREA, THESE DETAILS COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED. IF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED ON THIS MATTER, EMBASSY REQUESTS DETAILED MAPS SHOWING EXACT LOCATION OF ALL PROPOSED ROAD PROJECTS.

6. EMBASSY WILL REPORT AS SOON AS EHM GIVES FINAL DECISION ON PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A MEETING. CASH

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